

BARGAINING WITH FEAR

Written by
Tim Bridgewater

timbridgewater1@gmail.com
(225) 939-3905

Copyright © 2011
Registered, WGA 1493288

FADE IN:

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

A car shoots through the streets of the city.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Kevin (29), handsome man with glasses, and Rachel (28), very beautiful woman, drive down the road. They are dressed very nicely and are cheerful.

KEVIN

Rachel, seriously though. That was waiter was insane. I mean how many different ways can you ask someone if they want dessert?

They laugh.

RACHEL

Oh he was just doing his job...

KEVIN

And how many different ways can we say no?

RACHEL

Oh come on, he wasn't *that* bad.

Kevin looks over at her.

KEVIN

You're not that bad.

Rachel smiles tenderly at Kevin and reaches over for a kiss. Kevin returns and they giggle slightly as he keeps eyes on the road. His phone RINGS.

RACHEL

Are you going to get it?

He looks her up and down.

KEVIN

Oh I'm gonna get it alright.

RACHEL

Kevin...

She laughs and gently punches him on the arm.

KEVIN

Okay okay.

He reaches in his pocket and takes out the phone.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(into the phone)

Yelloooo...

He looks over at Rachel and smiles. She smiles back.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Hey buddy...

He looks over at Rachel.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

It's Paul.

RACHEL

Hey Paul!

KEVIN

(into the phone)

Oh nothing much, just took my
beautiful wife out to dinner.

She smiles at Kevin.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Oh it was cool. I mean the waiter
was a douche but-

Rachel punches Kevin on the arm again and gives him a look.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. So what's up, man?
(beat) Oh come on, I finally have a
weekend off, I don't want to talk
about that until Monday.

Rachel sits quietly and looks further up the road.

RACHEL

Uh oh.

She notices police lights in the distance.

KEVIN

(on the phone)

Yeah, yeah. Well that makes sense.

RACHEL
Oh no, honey, look...something's happened.

Kevin notices it too.

KEVIN
(into the phone)
Hey, we'll talk more about it on Monday...okay, yeah that's fine.

He hangs up the phone. He and Rachel stare at the lights as they get closer to them.

RACHEL
Oh I hope it's not Mrs. Harper, I heard she wasn't feeling well.

KEVIN
Yeah...

They approach the scene. He stops the car and he and Rachel get out.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Kevin walks up to a DETECTIVE.

KEVIN
Excuse me, sir...can you tell us what's going on...?

DETECTIVE
I'm going to need you folks to get back in your car and head home.

RACHEL
Where's Mrs. Harper? Is she okay?

Rachel looks over at Mrs. Harper's house. There is crime scene tape blocking it off.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Oh my god, Kevin, what happened to Mrs. Harper?

Kevin puts his arm around her.

KEVIN
Could you tell us what happened, sir?

An OFFICER walks up to the detective.

OFFICER
Sir, the victim appears to be...

RACHEL
Oh my god. The victim? Kevin...

The detective shoots the officer a disapproving look.

OFFICER
(to detective)
Sorry, sir.

He walks off. The detective hesitantly turns back toward Rachel and Kevin.

DETECTIVE
Are you folks related to Ms. Harper?

KEVIN
No sir we're not family. But she's our neighbor, and it would really mean a lot to us if you could let us know if she's okay.

The detective pauses and doesn't say a word. He drops his head. Kevin and Rachel embrace each other a little tighter.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Kevin watches the news on the television. Rachel showers in the bathroom.

REPORTER
In other local news, a home invasion left one woman dead and one neighborhood shaken to it's core. 56 year old Linda Harper was found dead in her home this evening. Police say that Ms. Harper appeared to have been electrocuted while in the bathtub.

Rachel comes out of the bathroom. Kevin sits with eyes glued on the television.

REPORTER (CONT'D)
The police do not have anyone in custody at the moment, but have released this artist sketch of a man who was seen leaving the home within the time frame that the murder was committed.

The SKETCH is shown on the screen.

REPORTER (CONT'D)
If you have seen this man, please
call 555...

RACHEL
Kevin?

He doesn't hear her. She walks closer to the bed.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Kevin.

He turns to her.

KEVIN
Yeah, hey. How was your shower?

RACHEL
It was fine.

KEVIN
That's good.

He looks back at the TV. She sits next to him on the bed.

RACHEL
How are you?

She puts her hands on his shoulders in a massage like
fashion.

KEVIN
I uh...

RACHEL
Any new developments?

KEVIN
Well there's...just this police
sketch.

RACHEL
Well that's good right?

KEVIN
Yeah...I guess. I mean I just don't
understand why this person hasn't
been found yet. This town isn't
that big.

RACHEL

Well sweetheart it's only been a couple of hours...

KEVIN

Right, a couple of *hours*. It only took this guy a couple of minutes to invade Ms. Harper's home, electrocute her, and for what? Apparently they didn't even take anything! At least as far as the detective knows. And right next door to us!

RACHEL

I know, baby-

She puts her arms around his neck.

KEVIN

What if he had come here? What if I had to work-

RACHEL

Kevin don't...

KEVIN

What if I had to work late, and we wouldn't have went to dinner, and you would've been here by yourself-

RACHEL

Kevin, honey. It's fine.

She places her hand on his cheek and turns his face towards her.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I'm fine. Let's just try and be there for Mrs. Harper's family now.

Kevin looks deeply into Rachel's eyes.

KEVIN

You have any idea how much I love you?

RACHEL

I love you too.

KEVIN

And I will *always* protect you.

She smiles at him. They kiss.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER [DREAM SEQUENCE]

Kevin and Rachel lie asleep in bed. The moonlight illuminates the room, along with a nearby street light. The bedroom door opens slowly. Three men dressed in all black walk into the room. They throw back the covers and grab Rachel.

RACHEL

Kevin!

Kevin's eyes open suddenly.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Rachel! Rachel! Let her go!

He tries to move, his body, hands, lips, but can't.

RACHEL

Kevin help me!

The men pull her toward the door.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Rachel! I can't move! Let her go!
Rachel!

RACHEL

Kevin help me please!

Kevin can only move his eyes.

KEVIN (V.O.)

If you hurt her I'll kill you! I
swear to God! Rachel!

One of the men pulls out a knife. It glistens in the moonlight. Rachel struggles to get free.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Rachel! Don't hurt her! Please! I
can't fucking move!

She stops struggling.

RACHEL

Why won't you help me?

The man raises the knife and plunges it into Rachel's stomach. She falls to the ground.

KEVIN (V.O.)
Rachel! Oh God no! Rachel!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT [PRESENT]

Kevin awakens in a cold sweat. He immediately looks over at Rachel. She is there, sleeping peacefully next to him. He puts his arm around her and kisses her on the cheek. She pulls his arm tighter and smiles gently. Kevin lays there, eyes open.

FADE OUT.

TEXT OVER BLACK: *5 days later*

EXT. FUNERAL - MORNING

Kevin and Rachel sit amongst family and friends of Mrs. Harper. People cry and console each other as the priest delivers some final words.

PRIEST
Linda Harper was a phenomenal
woman. She loved her family, her
friends, her community...

Kevin has a quick flashback as he stares into space.

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - DAY [FLASHBACK]

Mrs. Harper stands at the front door and hands Kevin a homemade pie, he smiles sweetly at her. She smiles back. Rachel walks up and gives Mrs. Harper a hello and wave. They all smile.

EXT. FUNERAL - MORNING [PRESENT]

PRIEST
...she loved God.

Kevin slightly sneers at the mention of that word.

He sits in a trance. Rachel reaches over and puts a hand on his shoulder. He doesn't react.

EXT. FUNERAL - LATER

Kevin stands off to the side while Rachel and Mrs. Harper's niece CARLY (17), wrap up their conversation.

RACHEL

Carly, I'm so very sorry for your loss. We lived next door to your aunt and she always loved showing your pictures off.

CARLY

Thank you. My aunt used to mention you and Mr. Verrett from time to time too. She was very fond of you guys.

Kevin snaps out of it and walks over.

KEVIN

And we were fond of her.

He grabs Carly's hand and smiles.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin and Rachel leave Mrs. Harper's burial service. They are silent for a few moments. Rachel continuously looks over at Kevin, who keeps his eyes on the road.

RACHEL

It was a very beautiful service.

He nods.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Mrs. Harper's family was very grateful that we came.

Kevin is silent.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Her niece Carly is such a sweet girl. I think I'm going to help them clean out the house while I'm on vacation.

KEVIN

Yep.

Kevin turns up the radio. Rachel looks at him, and then looks away.

RADIO

...and in today's national news, a disturbed woman walked into her home and begin opening fire on her husband and their three children.

(MORE)

RADIO (CONT'D)

The woman apparently then wrote a note, before turning the gun on herself...

KEVIN

Goddamnit!

Kevin turns off the radio in anger. He slams his hands on the steering wheel.

RACHEL

That's terrible...those kids must've been so confused...and scared. To see their own mother aiming a gun at them.

KEVIN

(angrily)

Why does stuff like this happen?

Rachel kisses him on the cheek, and puts her head on his shoulder.

INT. BATHROOM SHOWER - DAY

Kevin takes a shower. He is in deep thought. Thoughts of the previous events overlap throughout his mind, and he hears the words over and over.

REPORTER (V.O.)

...Linda Harper was found dead...

PRIEST (V.O.)

Loved...her community...she loved God.

REPORTER (V.O.)

...found dead...

PRIEST (V.O.)

...she loved God.

REPORTER (V.O.)

...dead...

PRIEST (V.O.)

...God.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Why does stuff like this happen?

He turns off the water and steps out. Then puts in contact lenses and stares at himself in the mirror.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rachel and PAUL (31), charismatic male, dressed in shirt and tie, sit next to each other on the couch. They whisper words that can't be made out back and forth. Kevin walks in with a towel in hand, drying his hair. He is surprised to see Paul.

KEVIN

Paul...

Kevin looks over at Rachel, who gives a shy smile.

PAUL

Hey buddy. What's the deal?

He gets up and gives Kevin a handshake and half hug.

KEVIN

Ummm...nothing much. (beat) What are you doing here?

PAUL

Oh I was just in the neighborhood, figured I'd swing by and see what my boy is up to.

KEVIN

Uh huh, I see...

He looks over at Rachel, who is completely silent.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

...so, Rachel didn't...call you or anything like that.

PAUL

Oh come on man, can't I just stop by and see how my buddy is doing?

Kevin gives Paul a look of disbelief.

PAUL (CONT'D)

What?

Kevin gives Rachel the same look. She stands up.

RACHEL

Okay okay. I asked him to come over. I just want you to go have a guy's day out or something. Just something to get your mind off of everything.

She grabs the towel and throws it over his shoulders and holds on to both ends. She looks lovingly into his eyes. Kevin is silent. He looks at Paul.

PAUL

Wow, man. I wish *I* had a wife like that. Such a catch. Look she called me alright? But in all honesty, I've been craving a guy's day out for a while now. I mean look at these.

He holds up his hands.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I am way overdue for a manicure right now.

Kevin and Rachel laugh.

PAUL (CONT'D)

So what do you say? We'll grab a few beers.

KEVIN

It's noon...

PAUL

And? This doesn't sound like the Kevin I know. What have you done to this guy, Rachel?

Paul puts his hand on Rachel's lower back. Kevin reacts subtly. She jokingly pushes Paul. They both look at Kevin.

KEVIN

Uh...I don't...

RACHEL

Sweetie, look, I know its kind of hard for you to admit when something's bothering you. And that's fine, but right now I just want you to go with Paul, and try and have a good time. For me. Please?

Kevin looks at Paul, and then back at Rachel.

KEVIN

Okay.

Rachel smiles.

RACHEL

Good. You go out, take your time,
and I will be waiting here for you
when you get back.

She pulls him closer with the towel and kisses him. Impressed
reaction from Paul.

PAUL

(to Rachel)

And where's mine?

He puckers up in Rachel's direction. Kevin leans in.

KEVIN

Uhh, I'll meet *you* outside in five
minutes.

EXT. BISTRO - DAY

Kevin and Paul sit at a table with food in front of them.
They eat in silence. Paul awkwardly breaks the silence.

PAUL

So...what's up? How was work this
week? Did Henderson get that
account that you were after?

Kevin eats his food, and doesn't hear Paul.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Alright Kev, you don't want to talk
about what's bothering you. I get
that, but Rachel's really worried
about you, man-

Kevin looks up.

KEVIN

Huh?

PAUL

See what I mean?

Kevin looks back down at his food and plays with it little.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Is this about that lady? The one
who lived next door?

KEVIN

Her name was Mrs. Harper.

PAUL

Right. Of course. I mean, I know she was a sweet old lady, and what happened to her was really sad but-

KEVIN

-but what? Huh? What are you going to say? I didn't know her that well so I shouldn't care? Is that what you're going to say?

PAUL

Listen, man-

KEVIN

-Why is it that people think that just because something doesn't happen to you directly or to someone in your family that you're not supposed to be sad about it?

PAUL

Dude, that's not what I meant-

KEVIN

Did you hear about that woman that killed her freakin husband *and* her kids, man?

PAUL

Yeah...I heard about that...

KEVIN

No one deserves that kinda stuff...whether I know them personally or not.

There is a brief moment of silence.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

It's been a while since I've gotten a full night's rest. I've been having these...nightmares...

Paul listens.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

...and there's just so much going on the world. Why? I mean don't you ever wonder?

PAUL

Kev, of course I do, buddy. But we can't answer those questions, man, we just have to have faith that the big man upstairs has a good reason for all of this.

KEVIN

(sarcasm)

Faith. Right. That's what they say, "everything happens for a reason..."

PAUL

Yep, and that's just the way it is.

Paul takes a drink.

KEVIN

Ok, but if that's true, then what *is* that reason?

PAUL

I don't know...

KEVIN

See? Don't give me that. If you're gonna feed me the "God" theory then it needs to make sense.

PAUL

Kevin, I can't make sense of it, man. That's just the way it is. Why does the sun shine? Who knows? Not everything has to make sense to us.

KEVIN

Well...actually...sunshine *does* make sense.

He giggles a little.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I mean at least in terms of humans, we need it. Otherwise we'd be...

A moment of realization.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

...cold, all the time...

PAUL

What?

KEVIN
Like they balance each other out...

PAUL
Um...

Kevin thinks for a few seconds.

KEVIN
Think about it...hot and cold
right? Two opposites. But we need
both...

PAUL
And...?

KEVIN
We need both...like there are
benefits to both...cold to keep our
food from spoiling, but hot to make
it edible...balance...

Paul gives Kevin a blank look.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Listen. Love and hate. Love is
necessary right? Without it,
everything would be hate. So it
stands to reason that without hate,
everything would be love, and there
wouldn't be a balance. Thus, there
is this need for both love *and*
hate.

PAUL
Kev, you're starting to scare me
with all this talk, man...for
real...

KEVIN
And *that*. Being scared. *Fear*.
That's just a tool. A tool used to
spread both...to help keep the
balance...

PAUL
Wait a second...how can fear be
used to spread love?

KEVIN
I don't know. Ok, the fear of loss
causes us to, at least most of us,
to cherish our loved ones right?
(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)
We're fearful of losing them, so we
protect them, at any cost.

PAUL
Kev, whoa man. Look, this is crazy.
I know that lady's death has got
your wheels turning but-

KEVIN
Death. Life. (beat) Balance.

He motions with his hands.

PAUL
Okay...let's just say I want to
entertain this theory of yours for
a second. Why is there a need for
balance?

KEVIN
Well to borrow your words, that's
just the way it is. Balance is in
the universe. Planets are perfectly
spherical. We're *just* the *perfect*
distance away from the sun. We
rotate on *just* the perfect axis.

Moment of silence. Paul reflects.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
We revolve *perfectly* around the
sun...

PAUL
Ok, that kinda makes sense but Kev-

KEVIN
Life, death. Fearlessness...

Paul listens in closely.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
...fear. Balance.

PAUL
Are you hearing yourself? I mean
where's your mind been this past
week?

Kevin is silent for a moment.

KEVIN
I just keep thinking about what
happened to Mrs. Harper, man.
(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

And these nightmares...I mean that could've easily been Rachel, and it scares me to death.

PAUL

But it wasn't, thank god. She's a great girl.

KEVIN

As you keep saying...

PAUL

Look, I'm not saying that you shouldn't be upset, or that you shouldn't be worried about Rachel. What I'm saying is that right now, she's worried about you. And if you're *really* worried about her, you should be worried that your worrying about her, will only cause her to worry about you, which in turn will make me worry-

Kevin begins to giggle. And so does Paul as he talks.

KEVIN

Huh?

PAUL

Now you see how I feel. Get it?
Good. Now let's get some good beer.

A waitress walks by. Paul turns to her.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Waitress?

Kevin's giggling stops. His expression turns to one of worry.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Kevin walks into the house through the front door. He holds a bouquet of flowers in his hands. He turns around to see that the lights are dim, and that Rachel is waiting for him. She is dressed very nicely and sexy. Kevin just stands there in awe. Rachel smiles at his reaction to her.

RACHEL

Are those for me?

KEVIN

Ummm yeah...

She stands up, takes them out of his hands and smells them. She walks away and puts them down. She then comes back in with a remote control and uses it to turn on romantic music. Kevin just looks at her as she walks towards him. She extends her hands out and he takes them. Together they step into the middle of the living room and slow dance.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for the way I've been acting lately.

RACHEL

Shhhh...it's okay. I know you. Things always get to you. You're sensitive to the world's pain. That's part of the reason I love you so much.

Kevin stops dancing.

KEVIN

Do you have any idea how much I love you?

Rachel looks him deeply in the eyes.

RACHEL

Of course I do, silly. And I love you twice as much.

They kiss. Kevin picks her up and takes her into the bedroom.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kevin and Rachel lie asleep in bed. Kevin slowly tosses and turns.

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT [DREAM SEQUENCE]

Kevin pulls into his driveway at home. He steps out of the car with his phone to his ear.

KEVIN

Okay then...well I'll have the papers on your desk by Thursday.

He walks up to the door and takes out his keys. He notices that the door is open.

KEVIN
Hey Jeff, I'll call you back
alright?

He hangs up. He pushes the door open slowly, and steps in.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT [DREAM SEQUENCE CONT.]

Kevin looks around.

KEVIN
(in a light hearted tone)
Hey Rachel, you left the door open,
babe. What did I say about that?

No response. He closes the door. Only a few dim lights are on, and it is completely silent.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Rachel?

He slowly makes his way into the kitchen, observing his surroundings as he walks in. He sees no one in the kitchen, and turns around and walks back into the living room, heading towards the bathroom, of which the door is slightly open. Water can be heard dripping slowly. He hears the water and is relieved.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Hey babe, I guess you didn't hear
me when I came in huh? Either that
or you were ignoring me. Look, I'm
sorry that I missed dinner, but you
know how things get at the office-
babe? What are you doing in there?

He walks back towards the door slowly. He stops in front.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I bet you've got those headphones
on...

He opens the door. He sees Rachel lying in a bathtub full of blood. She appears to be dead.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Rachel?

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

He runs over to the tub. He grabs her head and holds it up.

KEVIN

Rachel! Oh my god! Rachel what happened!? Rachel, sweetie...who did this to you!? Rachel, wake up, baby! Wake up!

Rachel doesn't respond. A shadowy figure begins to approach Kevin from behind. Kevin senses someone standing behind him. He gently places Rachel's head back down on the tub.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(extremely angry)

You did this.

SMOKE slowly appears. He turns around. He sees a man dressed in all black, wearing a solid black mask, standing in front of the doorway, which is completely in black.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

YOU SON OF A BITCH!!!

He runs at the man and charges him through the doorway.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT [DREAM SEQUENCE CONT.]

Kevin and the man land in the street in the middle of the city. He looks around in confusion. He looks for the door behind him, but there is nothing but buildings. He looks down for the man, but he is gone.

KEVIN

Huh?

He stands up and looks around. He is completely alone.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Rachel!!! Oh my god...

He breaks down. He lowers his head in tears. He hears a sound and raises his head quickly. There is a LITTLE GIRL standing not too far in front of him. She stands in front of him, silent.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Hey...hey there. What are you doing out here by yourself, sweetheart?

She is silent.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Hey it's okay...there's nothing to be afraid about. Where are your parents?

She points at Kevin. He returns a look of confusion.

A man and a woman walk out of a building smiling and laughing with each other. He hears more talking on his left. He looks over and sees more people walking and talking about. He is relieved.

KEVIN
Come on now. I'll help you find
your...parents.

The little girl doesn't move.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

The little girl points to her left again.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
What?

He looks to his left and sees the man in black standing there. Kevin shields the little girl.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Oh no. You get the hell out of
here! Don't you come anywhere near
us! I'll kill you you hear me!?

Suddenly, more men in black step out on side of the first. They align across the road. Kevin is shocked. He looks to his right and sees the same thing on the other end.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
No...someone call the police!

He turns back in the direction of the girl. She is gone. He looks around, frantically. He sees that the little girl is now being held by one of the men in black.

KEVIN
No! You let her go goddamnit! Let
her go!

He looks around.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Somebody help please!

He sees that all of the people are now being attacked by the men in black. They are being stabbed, shot, choked, and beaten to death.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Wha-

Kevin begins to panic. He looks around at all the chaos. He then looks back at the man holding the little girl. The man covers the girl's mouth with his hand as he raises a knife into the air.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Noooooooooo!!!!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT [PRESENT]

Kevin jumps awake in his bed. He is soaked in sweat. Rachel lays next to him in bed.

KEVIN

Noooooooooo!!!!

Rachel jumps up.

RACHEL

Baby? Baby what's wrong?

She turns on the light. Kevin looks over at her and begins to calm down.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Kevin, it was just a dream
sweetheart. I'm here. I'm here.

She puts her arms around him to comfort him. He calms down further.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

It's okay honey, it's okay.

He backs away from her a little.

KEVIN

But it's not...

He gives her a serious look. She returns a look of worry. Kevin gets up out of the bed and walks toward the door.

RACHEL

Where you going, babe? Are you
okay?

He stops walking, but doesn't turn around.

KEVIN
I just need some air.

RACHEL
Then I'll come with you.

She starts to get out of bed.

KEVIN
(sternly)
I'll be fine.

She stops. He walks out. Rachel sits there, looking at the door.

FADE TO BLACK.

TEXT OVER BLACK: 7 Days Later

FADE IN:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

It is a busy day downtown. People walk in and out of the building. Cars continuously pass by in front.

INT. PAUL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Paul sits at his desk in his office. Papers are neatly placed on his desk. Various office materials are scattered amongst the desktop. A laptop computer sits directly in front of him. A PICTURE of Paul and Kevin at a work related function can be seen on the desk.

Paul has his cell phone to his ear.

PAUL
(into phone)
Well if you'd like to look at it from a linear perspective, you can see that there's a direct correlation in the rise of prices, and our competitors stock declining. Now, if you want your account to be-

There is a BUZZ from Paul's desk phone. He looks down at it.

PAUL (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Mr. Riley, let me put you hold for
one sec...alright...

He pushes the button on the desk phone.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Yes Miranda what is it?

MIRANDA'S VOICE
Excuse me sir but you have a call
on line three.

PAUL
Can you take a message for me? I'm
on an overseas call at the moment.

MIRANDA'S VOICE
It's Mr. Verrett's wife, sir, she's
says she's returning your call.

PAUL
(eager)
Rachel? Ok I'll take it. Thanks.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - CONTINUOUS

Rachel talks with a CUSTOMER at the counter in middle of the store as she holds the phone in her hand. She is dressed very nicely in business attire. An EMPLOYEE stands next to her with a very uncomfortable look upon her face.

CUSTOMER
Well...thank you then, that works
for me. I'll just do the exchange.

She walks off. Rachel and the employee breathe a sigh of relief. Rachel smiles.

EMPLOYEE
Oh my goodness...you're such a life
saver, Rachel. I didn't know what
to do. She was screaming for the
manager and I thought she was gonna
blow this place up.

Rachel laughs.

RACHEL
It's okay, that's what I'm here
for. Now get outta here!
(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Your shift was over at 3! Go enjoy
the rest of your day.

The employee smiles.

INT. PAUL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Paul smiles as he listens in.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - CONTINUOUS

EMPLOYEE
Thank you, Rachel! Welcome back!

She runs off happily. Rachel puts the phone back to her ear.

INTERCUT RACHEL AND PAUL

RACHEL
Hello?

PAUL
Hey Rachel...thanks for calling me
back.

RACHEL
Hey Paul...sorry about that. Got
busy for a second.

PAUL
Don't worry about it. You're a
fantastic boss.

Rachel smiles sweetly, yet uncomfortably.

RACHEL
I got your message. What's up?

PAUL
Well, I was wondering if you could
get in touch with Kev for me...I'm
trying to seal this overseas deal,
but he's got the final numbers on
it in his office.

RACHEL
You mean, he's not there?

PAUL
No...he's not here. And...he hasn't
been here all week...

Rachel almost drops the phone.

PAUL (CONT'D)
You weren't aware...

RACHEL
Uh, no I wasn't...

PAUL
Oh. He said he was gonna take a few days to help you clean out your neighbor's house before you went back to work...

Rachel is silent.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Uh oh. Did I just get him in trouble...?

RACHEL
Um, I'm not sure, Paul...

She grows more concerned.

PAUL
Calm down, Rach. I'm sure he has a good reason...I know he's been having a rough time. Barely heard from him lately.

RACHEL
Well that makes two of us. Did you try his cell phone?

PAUL
Yeah I tried. Got no answer though...

RACHEL
Hold on a sec.

Rachel hits the hold button on her phone and dials Kevin's number. The phone just rings. She hangs up, and dials another number.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Hi. Caleb? It's Rachel Verrett from across the street. (waits for response) I'm great, thanks. Could you do me a huge favor? Could you tell me if Kevin's car is at our house?

EXT. RACHEL'S CAR - LATER

Rachel sees Kevin's car in the driveway as she pulls in.

RACHEL

Weird.

She pulls out her phone and dials. The phone just rings. She gets out of the car and walks in.

She hears the ring coming from in the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She walks into the living room, slowly following the sound of the ring. The living room is dead silent, and dimly lit with very little sunshine getting through the windows. She continues to follow the ring through the room.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She makes her way into the kitchen, the ring becoming LOUDER as she gets closer. It is very dark in the kitchen so she reaches for the light switch, but she see's the phone lighting up over by the sink, so she immediately goes over, picks it up, and silences it. She looks around briefly.

KEVIN

Looking for something?

Rachel jumps. She is startled. She looks over to the corner of the room. Kevin is there, sitting at the table, barely lit by the lights coming in through the blinds in the room. He is disheveled and unshaven.

RACHEL

Oh my god Kevin, you scared the
shit out of me!

Kevin looks out the window.

KEVIN

It's an interesting emotion isn't
it? Being scared...

Rachel stares for a moment, then remembers that Paul is on the phone. She puts it back to her ear.

RACHEL

Hey. Yeah I found him. I'll be sure
to pass the message along.

She hangs up.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Babe, what are you doing sitting in
here alone in the dark?

Kevin looks back at her.

KEVIN
Who was that?

She looks down at her phone. She gets annoyed at the fact
that he doesn't answer her question.

RACHEL
It was Paul. I called him-

KEVIN
-you called him. Again...

He looks back out the window.

RACHEL
I called him *back*. He told me you
didn't go into work today, or all
week. Is everything okay?

KEVIN
You know...if you would've asked me
that two weeks ago...I probably
would've said yes. But even then,
it would've been a lie.

Rachel just stands there, listening.

RACHEL
Huh?

KEVIN
Things...well...they're never
really okay are they? I mean, we
all have brief periods of time
where we're content. We smile, we
laugh, we dance...

RACHEL
Baby-

He interrupts.

KEVIN

But the funny thing is...is that at the same time, someone, somewhere, is dying. Well I guess it's not *really funny* now is it?

Rachel steps forward a little.

RACHEL

Sweetheart, is this about Mrs. Harper? Or that dream you had? Or-

He interrupts.

KEVIN

Do you think that they're afraid Rachel?

Rachel is silent.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

That is there is a moment...right before a life is taken...that they know that it's the end? That they know that no one is going to save them? That they have to witness the arrival of their own death? A moment where they experience *true* fear?

RACHEL

Baby, tell me what's going on. You're missing work...lying to Paul...and to me? Barely talk to before bed. We haven't been intimate in a week. Where have you been going all day?

No response.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Does this have anything to do with that nightmare you had?

Kevin looks up at her quickly.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Have you been having more?

He is quiet for a moment. Then looks out the window again.

KEVIN

Every night.

She gasps.

RACHEL
Sweetie...oh my god.

He stands up. She doesn't move. He walks over to her.

KEVIN
It knows that I know.

RACHEL
Sweetheart...what knows?

Silence.

KEVIN
Fear. I figured it out, and now it knows.

She looks at him in surprise and worry. He walks closer to her and places his hands on her face. He pulls her head down lower and kisses her forehead. He then walks away. Rachel stands there, extremely worried.

She pulls out her phone nervously and dials a number.

RACHEL
I need to see you right now. Can you meet me? Okay, I'll be there in ten minutes. Thanks, Paul.

She hangs up the phone and rushes out the door. Unbeknownst to her, Kevin stands in the other room and has heard the conversation. He is angered.

INT. PAUL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Paul types on his computer. His secretary buzzes his phone.

MIRANDA'S VOICE
Excuse me, sir. There's a Rachel Verrett here to see you.

PAUL
Send her in thank you.

Rachel rushes in through the door. Paul greets her with open arms. She falls into them, sobbing.

PAUL (CONT'D)
It's okay, sweetheart. Have a seat, and tell me what happened.

She takes a seat in front of Paul's desk. He sits back down and hands her a kleenex. She wipes tears from her cheeks.

RACHEL

There's something wrong with him.
I'm scared for him.

PAUL

It's okay, honey. Calm down. What happened? What did he say?

RACHEL

I don't know- something about being afraid, and people dying all the time...and he's been having these really bad dreams...and something about fear...he talks about it like, like it's a- person.

PAUL

Not the "fear talk" again. Well, I mean- did he seem like he was angry? Was he just venting-

RACHEL

No. It's definitely more than that. I've never seen him like this. I mean, I've seen him angry before obviously, but this was- scary.

Paul sits forward in his desk.

PAUL

He didn't hurt you did he?

RACHEL

No. No, he wouldn't do that. Ever.

PAUL

Okay. Well I know he's been having a very hard time dealing with the death of your neighbor...

RACHEL

He stopped watching the news cause there would always be something on there that would upset him.

PAUL

Maybe we should get him some counseling or something.

Rachel thinks for a moment.

RACHEL

Perhaps. I, I just don't know how he would react to that. I mean you know how he gets about me going to outside help for any problems we might have.

PAUL

Well then we need to try...

Rachel looks down, as if she is lost.

PAUL (CONT'D)

...cause I hate to think of what this is doing to you...

She looks up at him, but is silent. Paul stands up and walks towards the door and stops.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Look, I hate to do this, but I have a meeting to go to..

Rachel stands up and walks over to him.

PAUL (CONT'D)

But listen, we're going to get him some help. Now I need to know. Do you feel safe staying there with him tonight?

She nods.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Okay then. Don't mention anything about this counseling thing tonight though okay? It'll be better for both you and he to get some rest...give you both some time to calm down first before we approach him with this...

RACHEL

We?

Paul smiles.

PAUL

Of course. Kevin's my buddy. You didn't think I'd let you do this by yourself...

She smiles and nods. Then steps into the doorway as Paul opens the door.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Now, you go get some rest. And I'll be there first thing in the morning to talk to him.

RACHEL

Okay. Thanks.

She reaches out for his hand and he returns. She turns to walk away.

PAUL

Oh and Rachel...

She turns around.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Call me if you need anything.

She smiles and nods. She walks away down the hall. Paul watches her walk away.

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rachel pulls her car into the driveway. She notices that Kevin's car is there. She gets out and walks toward the house. She notices a faint light coming from within the trees behind the house. She slowly walks towards the trees.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

As she walks further into the trees she faintly hears someone talking. She follows the sound and the faint light. She approaches the lit area and sees someone up ahead.

She stops just out of his sight and ducks down. She peers over the tree branches at the person. It's Kevin. He sits on his knees on a tarp on the ground. He is surrounded by candles. He stares up at the sky. Rachel remains completely quiet.

KEVIN

(at the sky)

And so...I've discovered your existence. Why you are so prevalent in the world.

Rachel watches through the trees.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

What must I do to prove to you...that I am worthy.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Worthy of your power. Please.
Bestow it upon me. Let me be your
instrument of fear. Your weapon on
Earth.

Rachel starts to cry out loud, but covers her mouth to hold it back. Fearing that she will accidentally alert Kevin of her presence, she quietly walks back through the trees toward the house. Kevin looks menacingly over in that direction. When she gets further away her speed increases as she runs into the house.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rachel runs through the house into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rachel runs into the room, pulls out her phone and dials frantically.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paul drives down a road. His phone RINGS and he answers.

PAUL
Hello?

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rachel has the phone to her ear. She doesn't notice Kevin standing behind her in the doorway.

KEVIN
Talking to someone?

Rachel is startled and drops her phone on the bed.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paul talks into the phone.

PAUL
Hello? Rachel.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rachel stands completely still, looking down at the phone on the bed. Kevin watches her from behind. She turns around, using her body to shield the phone.

RACHEL
(nervously)
Hi...um...baby, I didn't realize
you were home...

Kevin is silent. He just peers in the direction of the phone on the bed.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paul listens in through his phone.

PAUL
Rachel? Are you there? I can hear
your voice. What's going on?

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rachel stands there attempting to hide the fact that she is afraid. Kevin stands there, expressionless.

KEVIN
Who's on the phone?

RACHEL
Um, huh?

KEVIN
The phone, Rachel. Who is on the
phone.

RACHEL
Nobody honey, calm down.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

PAUL
Rachel! Is everything okay? Is
Kevin there with you? What's going
on!?

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kevin takes a step forward.

KEVIN
Don't lie to me.

RACHEL
Baby, you're scaring me.

Kevin stays silent.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Okay, I was calling Paul. Baby, we are going to get you some help with whatever this is you're going through-

KEVIN
-Paul! Of course it's him! You always run to him don't you?

RACHEL
Kevin!

INT. PAUL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

PAUL
Okay that's it. Rachel, if you can hear me...I'm coming over there! I'm not that far away! Hold on!

He hangs up his phone, and makes a swift U-turn.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kevin walks toward Rachel slowly. She backs up against the bed as far as she can go.

RACHEL
Kevin, sweetheart. What's happened to you?

KEVIN
Why don't ask your lover Paul?

RACHEL
Kevin! What the fuck are you talking about!?

He walks a little closer.

KEVIN
You didn't think I would catch on did you?

RACHEL

What?

KEVIN

He's always complimenting
you...talking about how you're this
one of a kind woman..., how, *lucky*
I am.

RACHEL

Kevin listen to me-

KEVIN

-and you're always calling him.

RACHEL

Kevin this is ridiculous! I've been
calling him because I'm worried
about you! We want to help you!

KEVIN

Do I look like I need your help?

He steps further into the light. He is pale, unshaven, and
has dark circles around his eyes. His appearance is
disturbing.

RACHEL

Oh my god...Kevin...

KEVIN

Don't worry Rachel. *It* is going to
give me all the help that I need.

RACHEL

Kevin! What are you talking a-
bout...no, not...

KEVIN

Fear. Rachel. Fear.

He steps directly in front of her.

RACHEL

Kevin, listen to me. I love you.
It's killing me to see you like
this. Look, just come with me okay.
We can get you some help...

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Paul pulls into the driveway quickly. He jumps out of the car
and runs into the house.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

KEVIN

Don't you get it, Rachel? I don't need any help, I've never been better. It was Mrs. Harper...she needed...help...that family...

He suddenly becomes calmer. Rachel sees a glimpse of her old husband. Paul's voice is suddenly heard echoing throughout the house.

PAUL (O.S.)

Rachel! Rachel where are you!?

Paul's voice snaps Kevin out of it. He turns to face the bedroom doorway as Paul runs in. Kevin glares a hole straight through him.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Kevin, what are you doing, buddy?

He looks over Kevin's shoulder at Rachel.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Rachel, are you okay?

She nods.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Kevin, you need to calm down, man. Tell me what's wrong.

KEVIN

What's wrong here, Paul, is that you can't seem to mind your own fucking business.

Paul starts to inch his way towards Kevin.

PAUL

Kevin, listen to me. We can talk about this. Just let Rachel come with me okay? I just want to make sure she's safe...

KEVIN

Oh you'd love that wouldn't you Paul? You'd love it if she left with you.

Paul keeps inching towards Kevin.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 (becoming angrier)
 You'd love...to take her...away
 from me...

PAUL
 Kevin, listen to me...

KEVIN
 Stay away from my wife you son of a
 bitch!

Kevin cocks back and punches Paul in the face. Paul hits the floor, knocked out cold.

RACHEL
 Kevin! What are you doing!? Oh my
 god! Paul! Are you okay?

She makes a step towards Paul, but Kevin intercepts her and slams her up against the wall. He pins her up against it. SMOKE slowly emits from his skin.

KEVIN
 Oh no you don't!

Rachel is in tears.

RACHEL
 Kevin, I love you! Why are you
 doing this to me?

KEVIN
 I'm doing this *for* you! It's
 watching us...

He looks upward.

RACHEL
 Oh my god, Kevin! Fear is not some
 person in the sky! Fear is what I
 feel *right* now!

Kevin develops a look of shock, then one of regret as snaps out of it and he loosens his hold on her. He stares at her for a few moments and she stares back. Then he turns and runs out of the room. Rachel stands there, sobbing. She walks over to Paul and bends down to help him.

FADE TO BLACK.

TEXT OVER BLACK: The Next Day

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rachel stands in the middle of the living room. Paul stands in front of her with his hands on her shoulders. He has an extreme BRUISE around his eye.

PAUL
Listen, I know this is going to be
difficult...but we have to do this.

RACHEL
But...I just don't...this isn't
right...

PAUL
Well would you rather see him in
jail?

She shakes her head.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Okay then.

The knob for the front door begins to turn slowly. The door opens and in walks Kevin. He is cleaned up and no longer pale. He holds a bouquet of flowers in his hands. Rachel and Paul stand there as he walks in.

KEVIN
Rachel? Honey?

She doesn't say anything.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Listen, baby. I'm sorry. I can
explain everything-

PAUL
Kevin, I'm going to be doing most
of the talking here.

Kevin looks at Paul. Paul has a bruise around his eye and nose.

KEVIN
Did I do that to you, man?

Paul says nothing.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Look. I'm sorry. I know that I've
been out of it for the past few
weeks, but I can expla-

PAUL

Kevin, you've had your chance to explain. And now you've left us with no choice.

An ORDERLY walks out of the kitchen and stands in the living room with eyes glued on Kevin. Another one steps out behind Kevin. Kevin looks around at them.

KEVIN

Rachel...what's going on here?

She doesn't say anything.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Rachel...

He extends out the flowers. Paul walks up to Kevin and takes them from him.

PAUL

I'll take these.

Kevin glares at Paul for a brief second, then returns to calm.

KEVIN

Rachel, baby. You have to let me explain okay. Listen to me, I love you.

She looks up at him.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

There is something going on that you don't understand-

PAUL

Kevin, don't you think you've put her through enough?

KEVIN

Paul, stay out of this okay? This is between me and my wife.

Paul is silent.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Rachel, I love you. You know I would never hurt you, you've got to let me explain. Tell these goons to leave, so you and I can talk in private.

RACHEL
I'm sorry, Kevin...I'm only doing
this because I love you...

The orderlies look over at Paul. Paul nods his head. The men carefully make their way towards Kevin.

KEVIN
Rachel...don't do this. Listen to
me, I'm not crazy.

The men grab him by each of his arms. He struggles to get free, but can't. Rachel is in tears.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Baby, look at me.

She doesn't.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Look at me!

She looks up.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Do you have any idea how much I
love you!? You have to trust me on
this!

She cries harder.

RACHEL
I'm sorry...

She buries her head into Paul's shoulder. Paul puts his arm around her. The orderlies pull Kevin towards the door. He struggles.

KEVIN
Rachel! Don't do this! I'm not
crazy!

ORDERLY 1
Don't make this harder than it has
to be sir! I don't want to have to
sedate you!

Rachel picks her head up.

RACHEL
No, please don't! Don't hurt him!

ORDERLY 2
Let's go!

They pull him through the door.

KEVIN
Rachel! Paul! Listen to me!

The men take Kevin outside. He screams from the outside while Paul holds Rachel as she cries.

EXT. FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Smoke slowly emits from Kevin's skin.

KEVIN
Let me go! I'm warning you! Rachel!
Let me go!

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Paul comforts Rachel.

ORDERLY 1 (O.S.)
He's escaping! Grab him!

Paul and Rachel run outside.

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kevin runs towards the road as the men run behind him. Paul and Rachel arrive just in time to see Kevin shoot up into the sky and fly away. They all just stand there, looking to the sky in shock.

ORDERLY 1
Holy fucking shit. He flew...

He looks back at Paul and Rachel. They look back in awe.

RACHEL
Oh my god...

She faints. Paul catches her.

FADE TO BLACK.

PAUL (V.O.)
Rachel...Rachel! Wake up honey...

TEXT OVER BLACK: Three Weeks Later

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Rachel sits on the couch in front of the television. She talks the phone.

RACHEL

No, I still haven't heard from him.

PAUL'S VOICE

Well, I'm sure he'll turn up. Although, after what he did, I don't know what kind of condition he'll be in. I've finally managed to work out an agreement with the two orderlies, they'll keep quiet about what they saw as long as I give them some sort of substantial compensation. It's not like anyone would believe them anyway.

RACHEL

Thank you so much for that, Paul. I mean I just don't know what would happen to him if the government or the media...

She notices the television. The SKETCH of Mrs. Harper's killer is on the screen.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Paul...I'll call you back okay?
Bye.

She hangs up the phone. She reaches for the remote and turns up the volume on the TV.

REPORTER

We've been showing that sketch on air for the past couple of weeks and it is confirmed the man in the sketch, 28 year old Quinton Mercy, was found hanging from the steeple at the very top of the Miller-Fleming Building early this morning. Police say that he was badly burned as if he had been *electrocuted*, and they have no idea how he could have possibly been put up that high.

Rachel gets a look of surprise on her face.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

Quinton Mercy was the main suspect in the murder of esteemed county resident, Linda Harper. He is now in the intensive care unit at University Hospital.

RACHEL

Oh my god...

There is a NOISE near the front door. Rachel looks over and sees a note being slid under the door. She gets up and runs over. She opens the door.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Kevin!? Kevin, are you out there?
Please, honey! I've got something to tell you!

She looks out and sees no one. She stands there for a few seconds, feeling a slight breeze pass her skin, she embraces it. She closes the door and picks the note up off of the floor. She walks over to the couch, opens the note, and reads.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Hello, my love. The first thing that I want to do is to say that I am so sorry for everything that I have put you through over the past couple of weeks. It must've been hell watching me self destruct like that, so I thank you for being the strong woman that you are.

Rachel smiles gently. She continues reading.

KEVIN (V.O.)

I must admit, Mrs. Harper's death affected me more than I'd ever imagine, but honestly, it was really just the latest event in a long line of despicable acts of violence across this city, and across the world. And they all had tremendous effects on me.

Rachel sits up in her seat.

KEVIN (V.O.)

I couldn't stand it. So much pain, so much hurt...so much death...

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - MORNING [FLASHBACK]

Kevin turns off the radio in anger. He slams his hands on the steering wheel.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER [PRESENT]

Rachel takes a deep breath.

KEVIN (V.O.)
 ...So much fear. That's when I realized that there was a reason for all this. That a need for balance in the universe was to blame for all the heartache people had to deal with everyday of their lives. And the dreams, they confirmed that need. That's when it became clear to me...

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

Rachel starts to get out of bed.

KEVIN
 (sternly)
 I'll be fine.

She stops. He walks out. Rachel sits there, looking at the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY [PRESENT]

Rachel absorbs the information in the note.

KEVIN (V.O.)
 ...When I felt it's existence, a physical power in this world. Fear. A living, breathing entity.

She becomes frightened. But continues reading.

KEVIN (V.O.)
 So I gave myself to it, let it consume me...let it *change* me.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY [FLASHBACK]

Kevin is there, sitting at the table, barely lit by the lights coming in through the blinds in the room. He is disheveled and unshaven.

KEVIN (V.O.)
But I had to. It was the only way.
I had to let it take over me.

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

Rachel watches through the trees.

KEVIN
...bestow it upon me. Let me be
your instrument of fear. Your
weapon on Earth.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY [PRESENT]

Rachel continues reading.

KEVIN (V.O.)
Fear is one of the most powerful
emotions someone can have. I wanted
to use that power against those who
truly deserved it. Maintain the
balance, while directing it toward
those who prey on the innocent. The
thieves, the murderers. But there
was a test. I had to make the one
person that I love the most in this
world fear me.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

Rachel is in tears.

RACHEL
Kevin, I love you! Why are you
doing this to me?

KEVIN
I'm doing this *for* you! It's
watching us...

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY [PRESENT]

Rachel is shocked, but becomingly increasingly relieved. She reads on.

KEVIN (V.O.)
 So I did it. And it was the hardest thing I ever had to do. I had to watch myself act that way. I had to watch myself frighten you. It had to know that I would be able to handle the power that I would receive. It had to know that I was worthy.

EXT. MILLER-FLEMING BUILDING ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Kevin stands next to the edge of the rooftop. He looks out into the city.

KEVIN (V.O.)
 That was our deal. Our agreement. Our bargain.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

Kevin and Rachel dance.

KEVIN
 Do you have any idea how much I love you?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY [PRESENT]

Rachel starts to cry as she continues reading.

KEVIN (V.O.)
 And now, I've become something more. I can't tell you when you'll see me again...

Rachel picks up a PREGNANCY TEST off the table. It shows POSITIVE.

KEVIN (V.O.)
 There's so much in this city, this state, this world...that needs to be done. I must show FEAR that I can provide the balance that it needs, without it being at the expense of the innocent.

EXT. MILLER- FLEMING BUILDING ROOTOP - CONTINUOUS

Kevin looks down at the city as the wind the blows through his hair.

KEVIN (V.O.)
These criminals, they will learn,
they will pay, they will fear me.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rachel places the pregnancy test and letter up against her chest and embraces it as she cries.

KEVIN (V.O.)
Rachel, I love you with all of my
heart and soul, and I want you to
know that I'm so sorry for the way
I treated you. I hope that you will
find a way to forgive me, and that
when I return home, things can go
back to the way that they were.

EXT. MILLER- FLEMING BUILDING ROOTOP - CONTINUOUS

Kevin glares out into the city. He listens to the sounds of the wind.

KEVIN (V.O.)
In the meantime, I have much work
to do. Love, Kevin.

Kevin hears the SOUNDS OF HUNDREDS OF VOICES and tunes in on one specific one.

VOICE
Help me! Please! Someone!

He looks up to the sky. A stream of electricity flows through his pupils. Then he puts on a mask.

KEVIN
Alright. Let's go.

CUT TO BLACK.